



SRMT Kawennì:ios

Helping Build a Better Tomorrow

Kentenha /October 2008

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Good Words of Welcome,

Shekon Akwekon,

Ne kahskane'ks ne akwekon aeseuwata'kariteke tanon skennen ak'enhake.

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and at peace.

In the past few weeks while making trips I noticed the awesome wonder of nature; the beautiful red, orange and yellow leaves. We are fortunate living in the north country, with many trees, but winter is just around the corner. I hear it is going to be a cold one, so please winterize your homes and apply for the heating program.

As the weather changes, many get sick. I encourage Elders to get flu shots and parents to make sure children dress warm this winter.

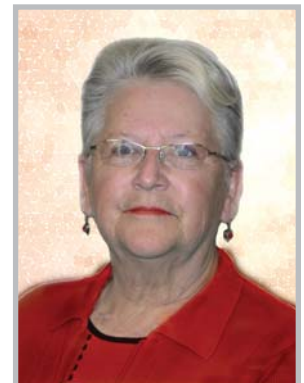
You will soon receive a copy of the Agreement between the Tribe and National Grid. Please read it. If you have any comments, please share them with us, niawen.

I will also touch on two issues. One of our priorities is the mold at the Mohawk School. I know parents and grandparents have deep concerns, but rest assured, Superintendent Jane Collins and the Principal Sharlee Thomas are doing everything possible for the childrens' well being and safety. I thank them, Sub-Chief Stacy Adams and Community Members for attending the meetings and having their questions addressed. Niawen to Minerva White for facilitating these meetings.

Another issue is sales taxes. As you know, NY wants our businesses to collect taxes from non-natives purchasing cigarettes. Some people feel that the businesses have made a lot of money and taxes are their problem. But please keep in mind, these businesses stepped up when the Tribe needed help, so I ask you to support them in this tax fight. I, for one, do not agree with NY State making us their tax collectors.

As always, my deep appreciation to all you Community Members for your support to the Tribe and to all our Staff for your dedication and service to our Community.

Niawenkowa, Chief Barbara



Environment / New Faces / Giving Back / Job Openings



STOP Domestic Violence Program

Sken:nen Kenha'k

By Yvonne Peters, Program Manager

Sken:nen Kenha'k or Peace Forever.

This name was chosen by the Advisory Board in 2003 because it reflects what we seek for our community.

In 1997 a proposal was submitted for federal funding to the Violence Against Indian Women program and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe was funded to start a domestic violence prevention program. The STOP Domestic Violence Program began operation in October 1998 when a Case Manager was hired. The main goal for the program is to offer the quickest response to those who are being battered and in violent relationships. Crisis intervention, which includes Safe Home entry, is offered for those who wish to leave home temporarily. The program also provides transportation to and from court, criminal justice advocacy and proper agency referrals. Two case workers offer support to victims whether it is to find another place to live, help with the criminal justice system, or simply offer a listening ear.

Another component is the Safe Haven Visitation Center. The center offers a place for the non-

custodial parent to see their children in cases where both parents cannot be around each other. This provides a safe and calm place for the children and their parent to visit while two monitors oversee the visit. Two other components of the program are underway: a shelter and a men's group, both which will be offered in the near future.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's STOP Domestic Violence Program will be observing its 10th Anniversary in October 2008. From its beginning to the present time, the program has provided services to 705 families dealing with domestic violence, with 101 victims receiving services in 2007. As part of the mother's services, 187 children were provided services. The program also had 26 victims and 76 children enter the safe home with a total of 99 bed nights.

The STOP Domestic Violence/Safe Haven program was recently awarded a federal Family Violence Prevention & Services Grant. This Grant will provide a much needed Safe House/Women's Shelter on the American portion of the reserve. This has been Yvonne's long term goal since she started with the STOP Program in 1998.

The overall goal of the Safe House\Women Shelter program is to ensure that Mohawk/native victims and their children experiencing domestic violence have a safe house to re-locate, on the reservation that meets their immediate safety needs. This would benefit victims and their children by offering a more secure location where tribal police could patrol 24 hours a day. The safe house will provide short-term emergency housing for victims of domestic violence. The safe house consists of 5 bedrooms, living room and kitchen. The STOP Program's advocates will work with the women in the safe house to help them seek alternative housing, resources, transportation, educational modular and any other assistance that STOP can provide.

October is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the U.S. The program will be holding an event for awareness and celebration for the 10th anniversary which will be announced at a later date.

STOP Program Staff

Yvonne Peters has been the Program Manager since 1998. Yvonne received her B.A. in Sociology from Potsdam University; she has previously worked at Iethinisten:ha and with the Child Care Program for MCA.

Kathleen Terrance is the Caseworker/ Advocate for the STOP Program. Kathleen received her B.A. in sociology from Potsdam University, she previously worked at the Headstart and Childcare Program.

Joy Jock has been the Caseworker/ Advocate for the STOP Program since 2005. Joy received her B.A. in Sociology

from Potsdam University. Prior to working at the STOP Program, Joy was a stay-at-home mom for 11 years.

Jeni Cook has been a Visitation Monitor for the Safe Haven Program since 2006. Jeni received her Associates Degree in Social Services at Iohahio.

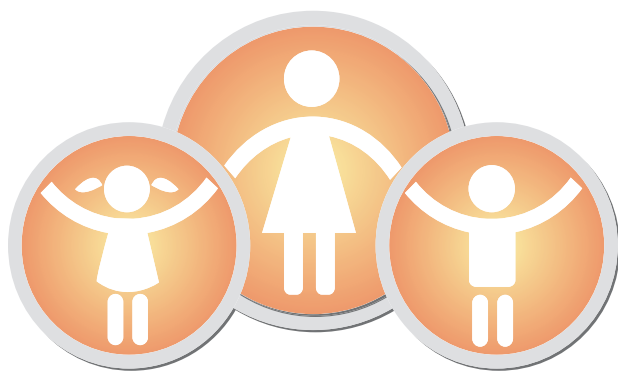
Arlene David has been a Visitation Monitor for the Safe Haven Program since 2006. Prior to working at the STOP/Safe Haven Program, Arlene worked for a childcare program in Arizona.

Rhonda Tarbell has been the Administrative Assistant for the STOP/Safe Haven Programs since 2006. Rhonda received her two-year certificate in Accounting from St. Lawrence College and two years of study at Potsdam University in Business Administration. Prior to working at the STOP Program, Rhonda worked at Iethinisten:ha.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call or feel free to stop in.

We are located at
102 Rooseveltown Rd.,
Akwasne 13655,
(across from Big E's).

Our phone number is
518-358-4406
or
518-358-9617.



Business Feature - Marketing for Profit Class

By Steven Cook, Director of Economic Development

Are you thinking about starting a business? Do you have a business now and want more customers by creating a website? Are you an artist trying to sell your work? Are you self-employed and want more customers?

Artisans, entrepreneurs, craft persons, and retailers from Akwesasne are invited to enter the world of e-commerce by utilizing the Internet to gain access to new markets and increase their sales.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe - Office of Economic Development in collaboration with the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, and Rural Opportunities Enterprise Center, Inc (ROECI) will host the Northern Adirondack Trading Cooperative (NATC) class "Marketing for Profit Course" at the SUNY Canton Small Business Development Center at the St. Lawrence Center Mall in Massena, NY.

The County Chamber and Rural Opportunities Enterprise Center collaborate with the Canton Small Business Development Center, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), Paul Smiths College and Cornell Cooperative Extension in providing classes about how to market products online, how to find niche markets and covers all the technical aspects of e-commerce, and selling on eBay.

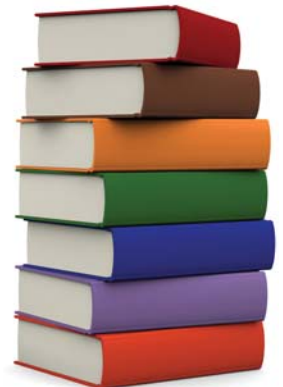
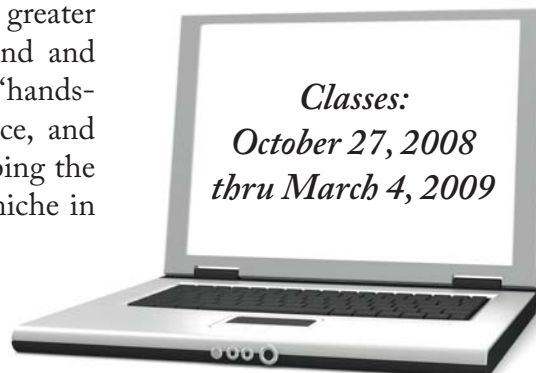
NATC allows participants a greater range of knowledge to expand and grow their business by providing "hands-on" instruction, technical assistance, and in-depth discussions aimed at helping the business owners to identify their niche in the global marketplace.

The core curriculum covers: Marketing, E-Commerce, eBay, quality, financial planning, how to secure financing, developing a marketing and/or business plan, Quick Books, customer service, product photography, product and website evaluation, public relations and operating a successful business.

Participants will be using state-of-the art laptop computers and digital cameras as needed. There is no cost to Akwesasne residents to participate in the program; however, individuals must make a commitment to attend three hours, two nights a week for 16 weeks.

The course will be offered 5:30-8:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays at the SUNY Canton Education Center in Massena. The first class is slated to begin Monday, October 27, 2008. Space is limited.

For information about registering and scheduling and interview for the class, contact Ruby Sprowls toll free at 877-228-7810 or Lindsay Tarbell at 518-358-2272. Call now to reserve your seat.



Akwesasne's Brian Connors and Steve Thomas Inducted into Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame

The Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) announced the 2008 inductees into their Hall of Fame located in St. Catharines, Ontario.

As a result of his immeasurable passion and dedication for the game, Brian Connors of Akwesasne was elected in the Builders Category.

Brian's involvement in lacrosse spans three generations as a player, referee and coach in Akwesasne. He also served as a teacher and mentor for today's young players and as a high school field lacrosse coach and the Akwesasne Junior B coach when they received the OLA Coaches of the Year Award in 1997.

Steve Thomas, a hard rock defenseman from Akwesasne is elected in the Players Category. He played on Championship teams with the St. Regis Jr. Braves in 1970, 1971 and 1996. He played for Ross Powless in Rochester in 1971 and 1972 and continued to play on many Championship teams in the Quebec Sr. League. He won the John Ferguson Best Defenseman Trophy three times.

Along with Brian and Steve, seven others were inducted into the Ontario Hall of Fame: Joe Caruso of Brampton, Oliver Hill of the Onondaga Nation, Bob Hamley of Fergus, Terry Lloyd of Ashawa, Randy Mearns of St. Catharines, Larry Power of Oshawa, and Gerald Ravary (deceased) of Whitby.

The 2008 Induction Ceremony was held on Saturday, October 18, 2008.



JOBS

Alcoholism Substance Abuse Counselor-In-Training - A/CDP

HCBS Waiver Supervisor - Disabilities Services

Female Youth Workers - Akwesasne Group Home

Patrol Officers - St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police

Complete job descriptions are online at: www.srmt-nsn.gov



NOTICE

The Governance Committee is looking for persons that are interested in providing input for a questionnaire that will go out to the community in regards to governing the Tribe. If interested, call Diane McDonald at 358-2272, Lois Terrance 358-2925, Minerva White 358-2555 or Betty Ransom 358-2097.



NEW FACES

Krystal Peters

IHS - Nutrition

Nutrition Assistant

Jared Gray

Healthy Heart

Fitness Instructor

Abra Vernet

Family Support

Habilitation Aide

MaryAnn Gregory

Healthy Heart

Community Health Educator

Amber Johnson

Family Support

Habilitation Aide

Mandy Marshall

Family Support

Habilitation Aide

Harold Cornell

Administration

Custodian

SRMT KAWENNÌ:IOS



David Trout Staddon - Editor

Aimée Benedict-Debo - Publications Manager

Adrianne Jacobs - Photographer

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public.information@srmt-nsn.gov

www.srmt-nsn.gov

ON THE ROAD



Chief Jim Ransom travelled to Worley, Idaho for the American Indian Tourism Conference.

Chief Monica Jacobs and Sub-Chief Pam Brown attended training in Las Vegas, Nevada for Robert's Rules of Order.

Chief Monica Jacobs also attended the United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET) annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

CALENDAR

Kentenha / October

30th - National Grid Public Meeting - 6 pm - Seniors

Kentenho:wa / November

1st - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10 am - Community Building

11th - Veteran's Day - Tribal Offices and Transfer Station Closed

NOTE - No Social Security Administration this month

27th - Thanksgiving Day - Tribal Offices and Transfer Station Closed

28th - Day after Thanksgiving - Tribal Offices Closed - Transfer Station Open

GIVING BACK

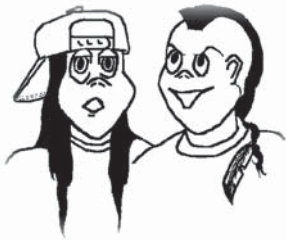


Funeral Donations - 3 recipients	\$ 1,500
Medical / Hardship Assistance - 2 recipients	1,000

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

*Mark Kentenhko:wa/November 15,
2008 on your calendars.*

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Solid Waste Program will be offering a free collection of household hazardous wastes at the Tribe's transfer station. Bring your materials in original containers or packaging, or in secure,



Kwis & Tiio
Tidbits

What to Bring:

<i>From the Yard</i>	<i>From the Garage</i>	<i>From the House</i>	<i>From the Workbench</i>
Pesticides	Antifreeze	Drain Cleaners	Rust Preventives
Insect Sprays	Brake Fluid	Oven Cleaners	Wood Preservatives
Rodent Killers	Wax Polish	Furniture Polish	Wood Strippers
Muriatic Acid	Engine Degreaser	Metal Polish	Wood Stains
Fertilizer	Motor Oil	Moth Balls	Paint Thinner
Pool Chemicals	Gasoline	Iodine	Lead Based Paint
	Kerosene	Art Supplies	Solvents
		Craft Supplies	Degreasers
		Photo Chemicals	Sealants
		Floor Cleaners	Latex Paint
		Bleaches/Ammonia	Oil Based Paint

***Need more info? Call the Environment Division's Solid Waste
Management Program at 518-358-5937***



By Laura Weber

clearly labeled, leak-proof containers. Make sure lids are tight on the containers. Group similar materials in the same area of your car to make unloading easier (i.e. group oil-based paints together).

***Don't mix or pour different or
unknown materials together in
the same container.***

Keep them separate.

Akwesasne GED Program Reflects Student Success

There is no achievement without goals. *Robert J. McKaine*

By April Lauzon, GED Administrator

The Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club established the GED program in the fall of 2004, originally serving adults over the age of 21. The class was taught by a certified teacher from Franklin County BOCES. The program was funded by the SUNY Bridge Program, but with recent funding cuts, the Tribe and Akwesasne Housing Authority are providing financial assistance for the shortfall.

Due to community interest, the program was expanded to include adults ages 17-21.

Since the fall of 2005, the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club has had 79 students obtain their GED.

The new winter class has ten students under 21 and 20 students over 21 years of age and currently has a waiting list.

The GED program has a “rolling” admission process that is very student-driven in its course load. Upon entry, every student is assessed for their grade level and is given work based on their academic level. Students have to be very intrinsically motivated in order to be successful.

The score needed to pass the GED test is 2250. The average score of our students is 2602. The score needed to get into most local colleges is 2400. Our students are not only passing the GED, but are proving that the reason for dropping out has nothing to do with the degree of difficulty in high school. Our highest score is 3700 from a young woman from Salmon River School.

The Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club hosts graduation ceremonies for the graduates twice a year, in winter and summer. We feel it is important that the students and the families to see the significance of their achievements and that they be honored for their accomplishments.

The Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club just received their certification to become a GED testing center. Students used to have to go to Malone or Norwood BOCES to take the test, but now they can take it locally.

Obtaining a GED is not the “easy” way out by any means. This is not like high school; no one is telling you what to do or ensuring that you come to class. There is no bus to pick you up at your house.

It takes a very motivated individual to be successful in this program and many are trying to juggle being parents, working, and other responsibilities while trying to better themselves.





Tribal Monthly Meeting Update

Previous Tribal Monthly Meetings

Action Item from August 16, 2008:

Tribal Council shall work with the Governance Committee to design a process to directly discuss governance with the Tribal membership. Also, develop a list of questions to be presented as a draft. A list of possible individuals to serve as surveyors should be developed.

Follow-up: At the September 13th Tribal meeting, Dwight Terrance, Chairman of the Governance Committee, presented the Committee's approach to conducting a survey designed to obtain feedback from the community on the issue of Tribal governance structure. This will be in the form of focus groups to determine what questions will be asked during the survey. Then hiring of surveyors will take place. Minerva White has expressed interest in polling the Seniors Groups.

Action Item from September 16, 2008:

Check with the Police Commission to see if they are aware of the Benevolent Association.

Follow-up: Andy Thomas, SRMT Chief of Police, said the Police Officers Benevolent Association refers to various police agencies whose members belong to an organized union labor workforce. The Tribal police officers are not members of any union group.

Official Tribal Meeting October 4, 2008

Chaired by Chief Barbara A. Lazore

1. Opening Greetings and reading of Action item(s) from last meeting
2. Danielle Lazore-Thompson presented summaries of pending Tribal ordinances:
 - Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO)
 - Sex Offender Registration Ordinance
 - Land Dispute Resolution Ordinance
3. Mohawk School Update - Sub-Chief Adams
4. National Grid Report - Chief Ransom
5. Call for Continuation for New Business
6. Review of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
7. Closing Adjournment

Action items:

1. Tribal Council appoint a non-Salmon River School Board member to represent the Tribe on the issues at Mohawk School.
2. Council form a committee of concerned parents to oversee an independent study at Mohawk School.
3. Council speak with the Salmon River School Board about hot-lining parents who choose not to send their children to school until Mohawk School is 100% safe.
4. Council discuss the possibility of providing funds to have an independent study completed at Mohawk School.
5. After Council has reviewed all the information regarding the issues at Mohawk School they should let their recommendations be known as soon as possible.
6. Council provide the name of the Consultant that the Environment Division used to review information and what her findings were.
7. Have the Environment Division test Ellyn Cook's water.

Laws, Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs) and Ordinances

NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY SYSTEM - SUMMARY

Title: TCR 2007-59 Electing to Participate in the National Sex Offender Registry System.

Purpose: On July 27, 2006, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act was signed into Federal Law requiring Native American Tribes to participate and comply with the law or they would automatically cede authority to states for a new sex offender registration and notification system.

Key Provisions: The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has elected to participate as a registration jurisdiction and implement the registry requirements of the National Sex Offender Registration and Notifications System. The Draft is still in its infancy stage and unavailable for public review at this time.



DRAFT LAND DISPUTE RESOLUTION ORDINANCE - SUMMARY

Title: St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Land Dispute Resolution Ordinance

Purpose: The purpose of the Tribal Land Dispute Ordinance is to provide Tribal Council, the Land Dispute Tribunal, and the Tribal Clerk along with any interested parties with guidance and procedures in resolving land dispute cases within the external boundaries of the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation.

Key Provisions: This ordinance gives guidelines as to who may file a land dispute claim and the procedures for initiating a dispute claim. A time line is incorporated so the complaint does not become stagnant and is propelled through a resolution process consisting of four phases.

First, the Land Dispute Claim is filed with the Tribal Clerk. This person ensures the proper information is recorded and issues an official notice through the media prompting any interested parties to respond to the dispute. This office researches and retrieves any and all documents with respect to the matter and forwards it to the Land Dispute Tribunal.

Once the Land Dispute Tribunal receives the file, they review the case and consult with the interested parties. The Tribunal will render a recommendation to Council based on their findings.

Council will review the recommendation and has a limited time to act on it. Council can adopt, reject, or modify the Tribunal's recommendation.

Decisions from Tribal Council can be appealed by the Complainant or Respondent to Tribal Court where the review will be limited to ensuring the procedural safeguards are adhered to throughout the process. The Tribal Court can affirm or vacate the final decision. They can also remand the case back to an appropriate stage of the proceedings. Certain Final Decisions of the Tribal Council may also be appealed directly to Tribal Court.

Community Members are encouraged to review the documents in their entirety:

- Download from the Tribe's website at www.srmt-nsn.gov
- Pick up a printed copy in the lobby of the Community Building; or
- Contact the Tribal Clerk's Office to have a copy mailed to you, 518-358-2272

Owera'shon: a (The Winds)

*Let us give thanks to the
winds of the earth. From
the four directions they come,
carrying the rains upon their
back, and bringing change to
the weather and the seasons.
They deliver our words, and
can be gentle as a whisper,
or have the power of a
hurricane. The winds fill us,
and connect us to all life, and
are the breath of the ancestors
of life. The winds are the
sacred breath of the Creator.
Let us acknowledge the
winds. So be it in your mind.
Now our minds are as one.*

Each month an article will appear from the Tribe's Air Quality Program. Please present any comments, complaints, or questions to Angela Benedict-Dunn, Air Quality Manager or Ken Jock, Environment Division Director. We welcome your thoughts and opinions.

The purpose of this column is to promote Clean Air practices in each of our homes, in our personal behaviors throughout each day, in line with our Mohawk cultural value system.

These articles are meant as useful information and a simple thought-provoking tool, to reveal some good ideas and some interesting notions.

MOLD, MOLD EVERYWHERE

By Angela Benedict-Dunn

Recently there has been a lot of talk on mold. Is it good? Is it bad? Mold is everywhere. Without mold we would not have certain things in life. Mold has its place, but its place is not to be growing in our homes, schools and offices. The fact is if you see mold or smell mold (musty smell) then you probably have mold. No testing needed. In our area the groundwater is high and lots of homes have water in the basement or high humidity in homes. Water is the problem -- mold is the symptom. The first thing that needs to be done is locate the source of the water. If a pipe is leaking and you see fuzzy stuff growing there you have a water problem. Stop the leak first, then clean up the mold with soap and water. No water equals no mold. If your basement floods every year, make sure nothing down there that will stay wet or is not cleanable like cardboard boxes, clothes, shoes/boots, furniture or decorations. If it does flood, then all the non-cleanable stuff needs to be discarded.

Another question is, "Aren't all molds toxic?" Not all molds are toxic, but some are. Some people are sensitive to mold and some are not. Fix the moisture problem first, then clean up the mold.

A myth about mold is that it can grow in the human body; it cannot. However, mold that's not living or growing can still affect mold-sensitive people. Another falsehood is that it needs to be killed with bleach; mold does not have to be killed. Bleach is more toxic than mold; soap and water is the recommended way to clean the moldy area.

Replace porous surface materials like wallboard, ceiling tiles, or cloth that have obvious mold growth. Clean hard surfaces. Repaint if appropriate.

To summarize: Mold spores are everywhere.

Water is the problem. Mold is the symptom.

Education is the cure.

Turtle Talk - Environment

Burn Barrels and Cancer

By Donald L. Hassig

Trash burning is a significant source of cancer-causing pollution. Many carcinogens (cancer-causing substances) are released by open solid waste burning and also result in food contamination. Chemicals released from the air settle upon crops and pastures and are consumed by livestock. Human consumption of dairy products, meats and eggs results in intake of the dioxins, furans and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), stored in food animals' fat tissue.

Burning barrels or refuse heap fires are generally prohibited in urban areas. Many city dwellers believe that open burning has no impact on them since they are not breathing the emissions of nearby fires. However, food supply contamination clearly results in an impact. Those who live far from where trash is burned are exposed to dioxins, furans and PAHs when they eat foods with animal fats.

People living in areas with frequent trash burning are exposed to carcinogens when they breathe the smoke and fumes. Food supply contamination accounts for more exposure than respiratory exposure. Over ninety-five percent of dioxin exposure is from consumption of animal fat.

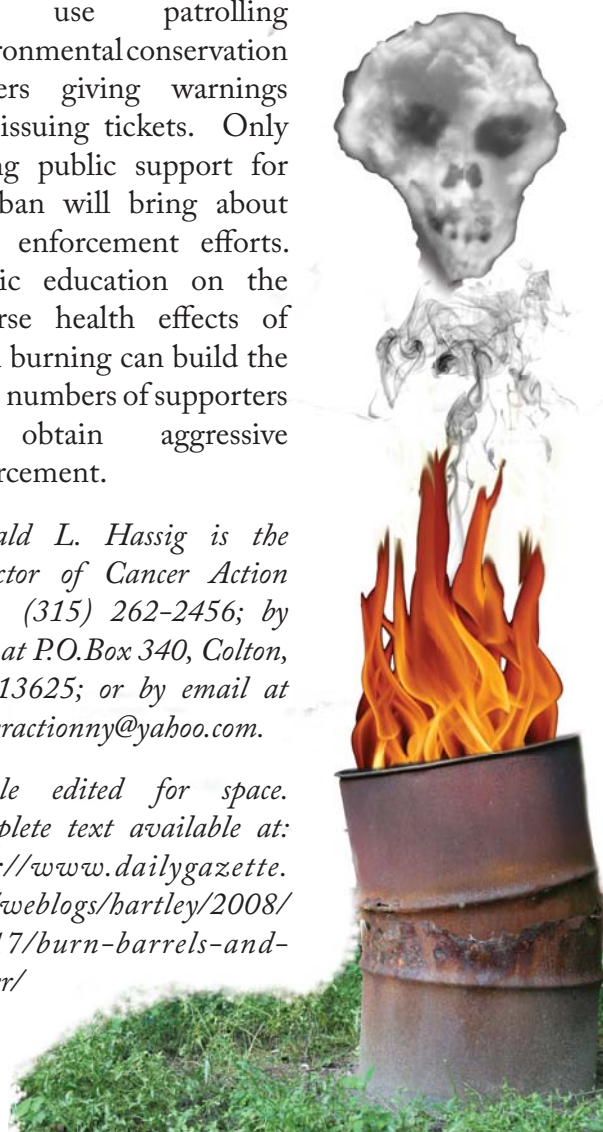
Dioxins are a group of chemical compounds created in combustion processes. Poor combustion conditions increase dioxin production. All dioxins and dioxin-like compounds, including furans and certain PCBs, are suspected human carcinogens. Dioxin exposure cancer risk has been established in numerous cancer case studies recorded among pesticide factory workers and Vietnam veterans involved in the spraying of dioxin defoliants. Dioxins promote malignant tumors formation by accelerating the development of cells that lose the ability to control cell division. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists open waste burning as the largest source of dioxin releases to the environment.

Reducing consumption of animal fat foods decreases dioxin exposure. These foods contain fats contaminated with dioxins: milk, cheese, ice cream, beef, pork, chicken, eggs and fish. Ending open waste burning is the most effective way to decrease dioxin in the environment.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has started the process of a statewide ban on open waste burning. Enforcement will likely be complaint driven. If citizens hesitate to make complaints against violators, the process of elimination of open burning will be slow. More vigorous enforcement will use patrolling environmental conservation officers giving warnings and issuing tickets. Only strong public support for the ban will bring about such enforcement efforts. Public education on the adverse health effects of open burning can build the large numbers of supporters to obtain aggressive enforcement.

Donald L. Hassig is the Director of Cancer Action NY, (315) 262-2456; by mail at P.O.Box 340, Colton, NY 13625; or by email at canceractionny@yahoo.com.

Article edited for space. Complete text available at: <http://www.dailygazette.com/weblogs/hartley/2008/jul/17/burn-barrels-and-cancer/>



TRIBE-NATIONAL GRID REACH TERMS FOR NEW FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Agreement Paves Way for Tribe to Exit National Grid

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and National Grid announced earlier this month they had reached tentative terms for a new franchise agreement that allows the Tribe to exit from National Grid's electrical service or to allow it to continue providing electrical services within the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory.

"This agreement will make sure that community members and businesses receive electrical service in a timely manner just like all the other National Grid customers," said Tribal Chief Barbara A. Lazore. "This is an improvement in our relationship with the company that has provided electrical service to our community for almost 60 years."

The cooperative agreement concludes three years of negotiations that has resulted in comprehensive terms for electrical service to the community. It establishes a positive working relationship between National Grid

and the Tribe to go forward and establishes the framework for how electrical services will be delivered to the community completely in compliance with our environmental regulations.

"We will now receive an annual Franchise Payment from National Grid for the right of way for its poles, lines and equipment," said Tribal Chief James W. Ransom. "Charging National Grid for the right of way has been something the community has been asking for."

The payment to the Tribe will amount to \$71,400 annually and includes a back payment for 2007 and a payment for 2008 once the agreement is signed. The amount is calculated based



"The agreement also provides us access to National Grid poles as we develop our cable, fiber optic, and other telecommunication capabilities. This provision helps us in coordinating our efforts to provide better telecommunication services to our community."-- Tribal Chief James W. Ransom

on what the company would pay in equivalent property taxes to neighboring municipalities where it has its poles and equipment.

“If the community chooses to leave the National Grid system, we will be able to make that choice,” added Tribal Chief Monica M. Jacobs. “That is important to us.”

The terms of the agreement include a provision for the Tribe to exit the National Grid system at a total exit fee of \$4,125,618 for the electric distribution system. This fee will be recalculated at the time of the exit. Should the Tribe choose to exit, it agrees to work with the New York State Public Service Commission and National Grid who are required to obtain the necessary approvals through the Public Service Commission.

Should the Tribe exit the National Grid system, the agreement includes provisions in which National Grid will help the Tribe by maintaining and operating the system for up to two years from the date the Tribe acquires the National Grid system. The parties also agree to enter into negotiations for

a mutual assistance agreement for emergencies and storm related events.

The Tribe estimates a new Tribal electrical utility company will result in the creation of six to eight jobs, including as many as three linemen. The cost of such training will be determined through additional negotiations between the parties.

The agreement not only provides the Tribe access to the National Grid poles but helps

.....

“There is also a provision to train up to three community members as linemen. These will be important positions if we decide to establish our own electrical utility.”

-- Tribal Chief Barbara A. Lazore

.....

build a relationship with Verizon who jointly own 46% of the investment in poles within the community.

“We also included a provision so that community members will not be charged State sales tax for services provided within our territory,” said Tribal Chief Jacobs. “These taxes should never have been charged and this agreement corrects that.”

Prior to this agreement, it was up to individual community members to negotiate removing the sales tax charge from their electric bill. Both National Grid and the Tribe commit to working together to make the State aware that State sales tax does not apply within the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory.

The Tribe has scheduled a special community meeting for Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Senior’s Center to review the terms of the franchise agreement. The agreement is expected to be signed shortly thereafter.



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Native Outreach Day

for High School Seniors & Transfer Students

Friday, November 14, 2008

8:30 am. to 12:30 pm. SU Fall reception

12:45 - 4:30 pm Native Outreach Program

Meet Native Program advisors, tour the school, learn about courses
and scholarship information.

Register at <http://admissions.syr.edu>

Contact Regina Jones, Office of Multicultural Affairs,
Native Student Program at rajones@syr.edu or call 315.443.0258
or contact Rod Cook, SRMT Higher Education Office, 518.358.2272

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Akwesasne, NY 13655

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PERMIT NO. 26

OCCUPANT